

Visions of Hope

February 11, 2018



F4356 State Hwy 97
Edgar, WI 54426

Mission Statement:

Hope's Mission is to teach the Bible and follow Christ's example by giving back to the community and those in need

Website:

hope4centralwi.com

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

Sunday School
8:45-9:30 am

Communion
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

Pastor:

Mark Reiff

pastorreiff.hopechurch@gmail.com

920-634-1246 (cell)
715-352-2555 (church)

Secretary:

hopelcsec@gmail.com

Duties List

February 18

February 25

Ushers

Keith Bauman

Leroy Syring

Daryl Mueller

Gary Bauman

Greeters

Russ Bauman

Daryl & Beth Mueller

Readers

Madison, Anna, Lily

Elaine Mueller

Acolyte

Korbyn Bauman

Jaicee Kunkel



AS WE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

How right Paul is to exclaim: "Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world!" For that supreme wisdom, which flowered on the cross, proved that the proud boasting of worldly wisdom was folly. The beauty of all the good gifts which grew on the cross cut out of the shoots of evil.

Throughout history the most wonderful events have been only symbols and foreshadowings of this cross. Consider them, if you are anxious to learn. Did not grace decree that Noah should escape from drowning in the flood with his sons and their wives and every kind of animal in a tiny wooden boat?

And what of Moses' staff? Was it not a symbol of the cross? Now it changed water into blood; now it devoured the false snakes of the magicians; now by the power of its touch it divided the sea; now it made the waves flow back together, drowning the enemy and saving God's true children.

Aaron's rod was another true symbol of the cross. On a single day it blossomed and shadowed him to be the true priest.

Abraham foreshadowed it, when he bound his son Isaac and placed him on a pile of wood. By the cross death was killed and Adam restored to life. In the cross every apostle has gloried; by it every martyr has been crowned and every saint made holy. We have put on the cross of Christ, and laid aside the old. Through the cross we have joined Christ's flock, and are granted a place in the sheepfold of heaven.

Theodore the Studite 8th Century

A Prayer for Lent

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the marks of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

All we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross you proclaim your love forever and ever.

Pax Christi,
Mark Reiff +

As we grow in the Lord and learn more about how scripture affects our view of life, we make choices that work with our new growth in Christ. Scripture has a way of molding us into who we are or who we are not. Christians usually mature as they grow in the Word. And as we mature so do our choices in life. Some of these choices may be very subtle and we won't even realize the change, but other choices will be major and will make a total transformation in our lives and the way we live – hopefully for the better.

Subtle changes are ones that affect us personally rather than a whole group or family. It may be that we have slowly changed the kind of music we listen to, or changed the manner of how we dress, or changed the kind of programs we watch on television. When we take up our own cross to follow Christ some of our choices can be very difficult. If we have a family, it will affect all of them, that means there may be some confusion among members your family, but we pray the change is for the better. The change might be as small as being more kind to your family or just being more helpful in your family unit. We must keep in God's word if we want to continue to mature and grow spiritually in the Lord and do His will. If we truly believe it is the will of God we must choose to follow Him.

*As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. **Matthew 9:9***

Matthew could have asked Jesus why he wanted him to follow him but Matthew didn't question Jesus. He knew in his heart it was the right thing to do. We shouldn't stop following Christ because someone might ridicule us or question why we want to make a change in the first place. Sometimes we may have to leave

behind those things that would hinder us in following Christ. Many in my family are not Christians, that is hard for me to conceive because I know of God's grace. We can't force our faith on others, but we should never give up our faith or hide our faith because our friends or family refuse to see the light. But it also means we never stop trying to get others to see the light too, so to speak.

God allows us to make our own choices in this life. We can choose to follow Him and His wisdom-filled ways or we can choose to follow our own understanding of what we think is wisdom. Some of us will discover that our ways are not a good path to a faithful, righteous Christian lifestyle and continue to grow and mature in the Word. While others will still not be able to move out of their comfort zone because fear of change from their life choices is too much to handle.

*Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. **Romans 1:24-25***

Some people chose to reject God and God allowed them to do it. And it's no different today. God is not going to stand over us with a paddle and tell us what we can or can't do. God allows us to do whatever our heart desires and many of us make rebellious choices. When we inspect the condition of the world today we see no difference in the morality of its people. Does life without God mean freedom? Are these people who are enslaved to the almighty dollar free? We are free to make choices but once we make bad choices there will be consequences. There is no worse choice than to be controlled by our sinful desires. Our search for fortune and notoriety can put us on the wrong side of God, and in the long run is it really worth it? Is there anything in this earthly world that is worth an eternity in hell?

*Because of this, god gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. **Romans 1:26-27***

The great news is we can choose to follow God's choices for our life. We can put our trust and faith in God and let Him choose for us. We may think His choices for us are not the right ones. But making choices without God's help is not working out so well for us either. Because God loves us and He will always know what is best for us at all times and in all things. If we doubt God or we doubt His choices for us this simply means we have already decided against Him. We've made our choice. Does this mean God thinks we will become perfect? Not at all, what God wants is for us to repent every time and believe in him at all times.

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. **John 3:36***

Your servant in Christ
Rosie Schilling



PRAYER CONCERNS: Please remember the following people in your prayers

Finnley Schmidtke—knee troubles—great grandson of Larry & DeEtta
Brian—cancer—friend of Leroy and Beth Syring
Jim Krause—open heart surgery—Jodi's father in law
Brian Asplund—cancer
Bob Kudingo—stem cell replacement—Rose Schilling's foster brother
Dennis Woik—cancer—friend of Chad Bender
Marge Manecke—health issues
Corinne Kane—friend of Cassi Bauman
Linda Krahn—breast cancer—sister in law to the Kamenick's
Mildred Imhoff—chemo treatment—Ken's mother
Grace Schraufnagel—cancer—friend of the Streckert's
John Hamann—home recovering
Shyra Martyn—breast cancer—Randy and Sara's daughter-in-law
Don Hanson—health issues
Leroy Syring—recovering from a stroke
Bill Brayton—DeEtta Peterson's brother
Dylan & Logan Weichelt—sons of Bryan & Stacey
Sawyer Mueller—microcephaly—Daryl & Beth's son
Jennifer Bohman—prayers of healing

Hope's Happenings

Sunday:	February 11	Attendance 88
Offering:	Regular	\$1634.00
	Building	\$125.00
	Sunday School	10.00
	Loose	\$8.00
	Well	\$200.00
	Sign	\$25.00
	New Worship Center	\$160.00
	Total	\$2162.00

Join us on Wednesdays, 7:00 pm for Lenten services.

"Thy Will Be Done"

is a series of services for the Season of Lent.

"Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week. Each series in the series focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us.

The Bulletin Board

- Mission money: David Lund, LCMC, Navigators, Honor Flight and congregational member to help pay doctor bills
- **Sunday, February 18, 11:00-1:30—Hope Chili Dinner / Potato Bar**
 - Please have all roasters and items for chili at church by Friday evening or before 8:00 am on Saturday. Please have hamburger thawed. We also need help on Saturday to make chili and to wash and wrap potatoes. We will be starting at 8:00 am but please come whenever you can. Thank you
 - 2:00-4:00 pm—**Youth Laser Tag/WOW Arcade**
- **Tuesday, February 20, 10:00 am Bible Study**
- **Wednesday, February 21, 2:00 pm Bible Study**
 - 5:30-6:45 pm Confirmation—this is for ALL youth (newly confirmed members as well). A light supper will be provided and will continue throughout Lent.
 - 7:00 pm Lenten Services
- **Sunday, February 25, 1:00-5:00 pm—Youth going to Camp Forest Springs for Community Days**

Upcoming Youth Group Activities



- Laser Tag/WOW Arcade on Sunday, February 18th from 2-4 pm. \$25 will cover a half hour of laser tag, a \$5 arcade card, pizza, and soda. Parents/youth please determine by Sunday, February 11th whether or not your youth will be able to attend. A count is needed to make reservations. Please let Cedric know if this works and if you will be able to assist with transportation to/from WOW following the potato bar.
- Camp Forest Springs - Community Days on Sunday, February 25th from 1-5 pm. Snowshoeing, tubing, downhill skiing, and snowboarding with free ski/snowboarding lessons. Prices vary with activity and rental.
- **PARENTS:** We need volunteers to drive our youth to these activities. If you are able to help, please let Cedric know as soon as possible. Thank you



Our January and February mission projects will be collecting items for the Wausau Warming Center and the Salvation Army Transitional Center Wausau. We will be collecting items until **February 25**.



Kaitlyn Belanger is doing a short internship in March at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation Hospital in South Dakota. She is collecting items that are needed to take along. The following items have been requested: Feminine Hygiene Products; Personal Hygiene Products; Baby items (diapers, wipes, clothes, etc.) and School Items (notebooks, pencils, etc.) Please bring items to church by March 4th and give to Rosie Bauman or Darrell (Her father). Thank you in advance for encouraging a young person who already has a heart for helping the needy.